

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the specification to provide convenient reference to the related issued patent. The propriety of entry of the amendment will require no more than cursory consideration by the Examiner.

All of the claims of the present application, claims 1-35, have been allowed. The Examiner provided the following Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

"None of the cited references shows or suggests the claimed combination of the cutting device with a handle, blade, slot and a lower shoulder that exceeds the width of the handle. The newly cited reference to Shelton shows that it is old to have a lower base that is wider than the handle. There appears to be no reason to modify the device of Allen in such a manner however. Further it is noted that the handle of Allen is wider than the lower portion including the lower shoulders."

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the allowability of claims 1-35, but respectfully submits that the claims are allowable because the prior art does not show or suggest each and every one of the limitations in the independent claims.

Applicant submits the Examiner's characterization of the claimed combination, while accurate, is unduly narrow. Specifically, claim 21 (among others) does not contain each of the particular features referenced in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. For instance, the Examiner has indicated "the combination includes a slot and a lower shoulder that exceeds the width of the handle" when such limitations are not required or included as part of independent claim 21. Further, neither Shelton nor Allen show, among other features, a handle and/or engaging notch as claimed. Shelton is focused also on cutting of a margin placed against a vertical bottom wall of a guideway. In addition to the general specification, abstract and drawings, the claims themselves also present disclosed aspects of the invention

the scope of which must not be limited by any inference or acquiescence to the Examiner's statements.

It is the intent and request of Applicant to expedite prosecution of the application. In light of the Examiner's remarks, however, Applicant requests the Examiner to confirm (by moving the application through issuance) that search and review concerning the application has been consistent with the foregoing, and if otherwise, respectfully requests review and/or re-consideration.

While Applicant does not agree with the Examiner's reasons for allowance, in the interest of expediting the prosecution, Applicant is submitting payment of the Issue Fee herewith.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached by telephone at (715) 835-5232 or by facsimile at (715) 835-9890. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

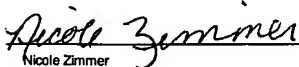
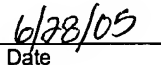
Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is
being deposited with the United States Postal
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in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for
Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 28, 2005.


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Date

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